

as a regular thing; and he isn't any more Congregational than I am. But the main point is that the Mormons are growing stronger every year, and if there be an increase in interest or attendance or effective church work among the non-Mormons from year to year, you will have to show me.

There must be the solution of it. They believe it. Their fathers believed it before them, and they are taking mighty good care that the children who shall come after them will believe it, too.

I am not debating the question as to whether it is true. I simply am putting before you a condition, and asking how you account for it. And if you happen to be a church man, of the non-Mormon type, you better find the corrective. It will do your organization much more good than would any amount of anti-Mormon vituperation you shall have the strength to indulge in.

Chief Grant may not have made Salt Lake the spotless town, but you will notice that a lot of roominghouses and cheap hotels have assumed new aliases.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

By Charlotte Sherwood Martindell in The Era—
The story of the Immaculate Conception has come down through the ages, tainting, more, perhaps, than we realize, our views of parenthood. Why should we speak of the Immaculate Conception, as if indeed there were but one? Is not every conception immaculate where Love, or the "Holy Ghost," is present? Indeed, may not this be the real meaning of the legend? To the truthful mind all natural laws are of God, partake of His nature, and demonstrate the wondrous system of His plans. No miracles are needed to impress such a mind. But for the mediocre mind, there must be some unusual occurrence—some divergence from the natural law, some sensational happening—in order to impress and convince. Was it not, probably, for this class of minds that the legend of the Immaculate Conception was first made up, which, gaining root, has somehow clung to humanity through all the ages since? Why should any sane man or woman care to believe this unnatural and absurd departure from Nature's law, rather than the natural and far more holy and beautiful idea of a child born of the love of both his parents? How are we ever to improve our morals, unless we purify our ideas of the sex relation? And when we analyze it closely enough, is not the idea of the Immaculate Conception rather demoralizing? Is it not a plebeian idea, originated to impress minds which held more vile-ness than purity? Surely it is a reproach, a reflection upon all true parenthood.

The Immaculate Conception is a pretty enough story, but after all, is it not a harmful one for a world seeking Truth, and desirous of lifting marriage to the ideal plane where it rightfully belongs?

The Priests first taught this story, and, wishing to remain themselves pure and holy, they became and have remained, supposedly, celibates. Thus from the beginning of the Christian Era we have allowed a stain, as it were, to rest upon the idea of marriage, even while we speak, inconsistently certainly, of "holy wedlock."

Is it not time that women, in particular, awake to the importance of this question, and face the truth, and realize that it is for them to establish the right and pure idea of marriage and of birth, and a new ideal that every welcome, love-born child is of immaculate conception? Is it not time we should drop the old monastic theory of the body as an organ of pollution? Rather let us con-

If you don't know how to make your backyard a candidate for the "yard beautiful" contest, just take a chance on cleaning out the rubbish and the rest will come naturally.

sider it the sacred temple of the human soul, and all its expressions right and beautiful. Then only can we be pure in thought and in deed.

Good farm land in Utah is so cheap that most every person who advocates putting people on it could practice what he preaches.

DIDN'T WANT TO GO, ANYWAY.

I note without regret that the legislature failed to appropriate the seven and a half thousand dollars with which to pay the expenses of a coterie of my old soldier friends from Utah to the Grand Army encampment at Gettysburg this summer. Well, a lot of the boys who will stay at home didn't want to go, anyway.

I can not get it out of my mind that there is no more reason for giving state money for that cause than for the sending of the plumbers to their national meet; or the carpenters to theirs; or the delegates to the mining congress to theirs. There isn't an interest of live value to the people of Utah that hasn't a better claim on the people for transportation and commissary money than have the members of the Grand Army. They all get pensions. A lot of them get pensions to which they are by no manner of means entitled. They have been coddled so long that they are spoiled. They arrogate to themselves an undue importance. They have been flattered till they take themselves seriously. They meet every effort at rational argument with the offended front of a Jove who scented ingratitude. They tell you frankly that they saved the country, even if they have been carried to the skies on feathery beds of ease. They demand laws that mark them as the special favorites for appointive offices; and they thereafter resent the implication that they ought to do something for the pay they draw. They have made the pension roll anything but a roll of honor, and they have blasted with black anathema the men who have tried to make of it a record of worthy heroism.

Some people say a purse of seven and a half thousand dollars or some other sum will be raised with the expectation that the coming legislature will recoup the guarantors with an appropriation. It wouldn't be wise for any one to go bail for any such law. There be men in this town with money enough to send to Gettysburg one or all of the present membership of the G. A. R., of Utah. And they have a right to send them if so be they want to. But it will be a perilous thing to advance the money on the expectation that the legislature of nineteen-fifteen will take the money from the treasury of the state and refund it.

I am not hostile to the old soldier. I honor him just in the degree that he was a good soldier. And I know a lot of those who wear the bronze buttons who are very excellent men, and most desirable citizens. But that doesn't make anything that looks like the beginning of an argument why the state should pay seven and a half thousand dollars—or any other sum—to send five, ten or a hundred of them to Gettysburg.

And the time has about come when that sort of foolishness is and of right ought to be impossible in any state of the Union.

I Should Worry

An F dish peeress is appearing in barefoot dances in a New York vaudeville house. This is perhaps the first case on record where a member of the peerage has been of any possible use.

Everybody seems to agree that we ought to increase our water supply, but so far no one has found two persons who agree on a method.

After living ninety years in one town and occupying the same room for sixty-eight years, a New Jersey man has moved to another village. No one with such a roving disposition can ever hope for success.

Pools are now being formed on the length of

Bryan's tenure of office. It's your turn to guess. Spring undoubtedly is with us in spirit, but we could even stand the poetry if we had the weather.

Harvard is to have a chair of wit and humor. Now we are going to learn the origin of the seven original jokes.

Washington's smart circles have invented dances in the dark. They may have their possibilities, and all that, but we know a lot of dances that look much better that way.

Anyhow, Republicans make good private citizens.

A man over in Colorado who proposed marriage to a number of school teachers has been declared insane. But this is rather archaivalous to the teachers.

Would it be proper to refer to a funeral director as a sarcophagist?

The Ogden officers who didn't catch the black-mallers acted exactly like they had been trained on the Salt Lake force.

President Wilson gives every indication that he is going to have his own way in Washington. Here's hoping.

It is reported that Commissioner Korns has moved his reservoir from City Creek to Parley's canyon.

PAY AS YOU ENTER.

(The Utah Light and Railway company is going to operate a "Fare First" car in Salt Lake.—News Item.)

"Pay as You Enter!" Oh, dear, what a fuss they are making! And gates automatic! It is useless to argue, to fume or to cuss. For conductors are most autocratic. But of all the contraptions that man could devise To annoy the long-suffering shopper, This "Pay as You Enter" contrived by the wise Is conducive to language improper.

Through the mud or the dust you jump for the car, Forgetting the new regulation; When the motorman gives you the merry Har! Har! And the passengers raise an ovation. You run to the rear and you make a quick spring. The conductor grabs out for your money; You drop all your parcels to find the darned thing. Oh, it's funny, it's funny, quite funny!

The conductor commands you to push to the front; — There is standing room, if you can find it; For a seat that is vacant in vain do you hunt; You've a bunton, but you mustn't mind it! So you hang by a strap and score the blamed ghoul Who invented this fell innovation, And envy the motorman poised on his stool All the way to your own destination.

When you want to get off you pull at the gate, And terrible words do you utter; With a jerk it flies open and sad to relate, You land with a flop in the gutter. You pick yourself up, all bruises and pain And swear at the foolish inventor; But the very next morning you'll do it again; You'll cuss, but you'll pay as you enter.